


REMARKS

The claims have been amended to recite that the images being processed are ultrasound images. All rejections in the Final rejection employ the Ikeshoji patent as the primary (if not anticipatory) reference. Ikeshoji teaches an image processing technique for repairing defects in an image of a document that has been read by a scanner. Ikeshoji is totally irrelevant to the processing of ultrasound images.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 1-32 are hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

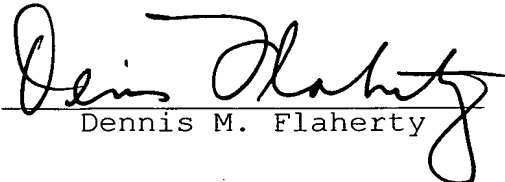
July 5, 2006
Date


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.

July 5, 2006


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